Program note for MOMENT composed by Alex Shapiro

Our hearts are equally shaken by moments excruciatingly painful, and transcendentally beautiful. In a world in which emotions are often blunted by the assault of overload, we cannot allow ourselves to ignore profound, inner responses evoked in an instant. Awestruck. Hopeful. Grieving. Longing. Shocked. Weeping. Thinking. Amazed. Waiting. Stunned. Heartbroken. Transported. Hurting. Dreaming. Startled. Dismayed. Delighted. Caring. What are the moments that have moved you?

For performance: if desired, the addition of emotionally stimulating photos or video projected in the background is encouraged. Alex Shapiro has many appropriate photographs that she is pleased to make available, some of which can be seen on the MOMENT page of her website, at www.alexshapiro.org.

Ensembles are also encouraged to raise environmental awareness by presenting a visual juxtaposition between the tremendous beauty of our planet, and the immense harm it has suffered from the actions of humans: drinking water poisoned by fracking; oceans clogged with bird and fish-killing plastics; landscapes permanently altered by mining and drilling; species mutated by radiation and pesticides. These are only a few examples of non-political topics with something in common: there is still time for humans to change their behaviors, and to make a difference.